



# Florida House of Representatives

## HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida  
32399-1300

**Carlos Lopez-Cantera**  
Majority Leader

**322 The Capitol**  
(850) 488-1993

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**CONTACT:** Rebekah Hammond  
(850) 488-1993

## **Majority Leader Lopez-Cantera Responds to Attack on Bipartisan Debate Procedures**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – Florida House Majority Leader Carlos Lopez-Cantera (R-Miami) released the following statement responding to Representative Garcia’s false claims of the Florida House stifling opposition debate.

“It’s unfortunate that Representative Garcia has not been paying attention this session. The procedures adopted last night were before the entire body and adopted unanimously without questions, debate, or objections from any member, including Rep. Garcia. He’s attacking the good faith negotiations of the Rules leaders in both parties to provide equitable debate and apparently not performing his due-diligence as a representative to read the information before him, prior to a vote.

“Structured debate procedures are adopted after agreement between the Rules Chair and Democratic Ranking Member on the Rules Committee. They also provide the minority party 50 percent of the debate time, when they comprise less than one-third of the membership.”

“There has been an open and transparent rules process from day one. We have used structured debate, which allows for equitable debate for both sides of the aisle, throughout this entire session to make the best use of our time and resources. I hope Representative Garcia can now see the wisdom in this efficient use of Floor time, as his Democratic colleagues do.”

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